

# Spotlight

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## We mean business because business matters

Jackson Energy Cooperative means business because business matters to us and to the livelihood of our members who live within our communities.

Commerce and industry are the lifeblood of any community, large or small. That's just as true today as it was in 1938 when local citizens established our cooperative to transform our economy.

When new businesses arrive or existing ones expand, they create new jobs and added tax revenue—which is termed economic development. The bottom line is that the quality of life is improved for every resident.

Jackson Energy has taken an active role in economic development throughout our entire existence. We've doubled down on this commitment in recent years because our communities need it more than ever.

We're laying the foundations for economic success by maintaining partnerships with state officials, local agencies and many other organizations. Later this month, Jackson Energy will co-host a meeting to bring together some of the commonwealth's best economic development minds to brainstorm new and better ways to attract facilities and strengthen existing companies.



COLOURS-PI

As a member of Kentucky's Touchstone Energy Cooperatives, we're using cutting-edge technology to aggressively attract companies from across the globe. Data from aerial drone flights, online videos and mobile mapping are among the tools we employ to bring new jobs and business investments into our state and into our region.

We're helping our communities develop a competitive edge by supporting technology education in local schools. Our co-op has sponsored a program called SOAR-STEM that is aimed at building the world's largest science, technology, engineering and math workforce right here in Kentucky.

We have also worked with local community and economic development leaders to secure no-interest loans through the Rural Development Loan Program. This program allows Jackson Energy to help local companies build from the ground up or expand their existing facility which results in more job opportunities, a healthier economy and a better quality of life.

We know that our communities are facing economic challenges, but we are working hard to overcome them and to build a better tomorrow. When it comes to economic development, Jackson Energy means business because everyone benefits when communities move ahead.

## SPOTLIGHT

Lisa Baker, Editor  
Published by Jackson Energy

A Touchstone Energy™ Cooperative 

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Jackson Energy

*Working for You*

# We love our community

With Valentine's Day approaching, we can't think of a better time to express how much we love our community and serving you, the members of the co-op.

We know when we helped to bring electricity to rural Kentucky many years ago, the quality of life improved for all. Through the years, other issues needed to be tackled, and we have been at the forefront of helping to address some of those issues. We want to help meet the long-term needs of our community to ensure it continues to thrive—because just like you, we live here, too.

While our top priority is to provide safe, reliable and affordable energy to you, equally important is our mission to enrich the lives of the members we serve—that's you! Jackson Energy knows that electricity is a critical need for modern-day life, but it takes more than poles and power lines to make a community.

Over time, our co-op has evolved to meet the changing needs of our community, thereby improving the quality of life for everyone. And that can mean many different things.

It can mean programs for Kentucky's youth, such as education scholarships or the Electric Cooperative Youth Tour, where we take our community's brightest young people to Washington, D.C., for a weeklong immersion to experience democracy in action.

It means organizing food and toy drives and our members contributing more than \$400,000 to Operation RoundUP, a program that helps local civic groups, fire department, family resource centers and other non-profit organizations.



Jackson Energy V.P. of Corporate Services Ryan Henderson presents a \$500 RoundUP check to Robert Forehand of Hargett Fire and Rescue.

Our community-focused programs have enabled our local communities to help families in need—and we couldn't do any of this without you, our members.

We all benefit from these programs because of you and your neighbors. You empower Jackson Energy through your membership, participation and support of these programs.

As a local business, we are proud to power your life and bring good things to our community. The energy landscape is always changing due to evolving technology and our members' desire for more options. While the larger environment in which we operate is constantly changing, one thing remains the same. By working together, I'm certain that we can continue to do good things for our community.



Carol Wright  
President & CEO

## Commitment to Community



Jackson Energy employees collected toys to be distributed to area Family Resource Centers for Christmas. Helping to organize the toys for distribution were, from left, Carlos Lamb, Brent Bingham, Rick Caudill, Katie Dotson, Renita Fox, Susan Woods, Ryan Henderson, Lindsay Russell, Cindy Wilson, Lisa Smith, Brittany Montgomery, Patrick Head, Jessica Grimes, Justin Spencer, Jeff Browning, Tim Dyche and Tim Coyle. Photo: Lisa Baker

## Space heaters can cause electric bills to spike

If you use a space heater in your home, please be aware that it can cause a significant increase in your monthly bill.

If the cost does not deter you, remember how important it is to use space heaters safely. Make sure your unit is equipped with automatic shut-off features and heating element guards.

Place your space heater out of high-traffic areas and on level, hard, non-flammable floor surfaces—not on carpets, furniture or countertops.

Remember to keep space heaters at least 3 feet from all flammable items such as draperies, blankets and sofas.

Finally, never leave a space heater unattended. Turn it off or unplug the unit before leaving the room or going to bed.



the cold hard facts...

### about space heaters

***A 1,000-watt space heater operating 12 hours a day will add about \$43 to your monthly bill***

Operation RoundUP is a program that gives Jackson Energy members the opportunity to give back to their community a few cents at a time.

It is solely funded by co-op members who voluntarily choose to round their electric bill to the next even dollar amount each month. The extra money, which averages 50 cents a month, is applied to the Operation RoundUP Fund.

Jackson Energy members also serve on the volunteer Operation RoundUP Board of Trustees. The trustees receive and evaluate grant applications on a quarterly basis.

Community organizations can apply for grants and members can join Operation RoundUP by visiting the Jackson Energy website, [www.jacksonenergy.com/operation-roundup](http://www.jacksonenergy.com/operation-roundup).



Jackson Energy Rockcastle County Director Phil Thompson, above, presents a \$1,200 Operation RoundUP check to Selena Thompson, with the Rockcastle Arts Association. Below, Dorissa Dotson with North Laurel Middle School Family Resource Center accepts a \$1,000 check from Laurel County Directors Keith Binder, left, and Steve Patton. Photos: Katie Dotson



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